

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to include a cross-reference to the foreign application relied on for priority. Claims 23-27 have been added to provide applicants with the protection to which they are deemed entitled. The subject matter of the newly added claims is found in the specification and drawing by virtue of first operating station PO1 and second operating station PO2 respectively including magnetic head TM and printing head TI, respectively described in the specification as filed at page 9, lines 4-15.

In the last response, applicants canceled claims 2, 9, 10, 12 and 15. However, the Summary of Office Action indicates claims 1-22 are pending and consideration of the claims rejected in the last response is set forth in the body of the office action. Correction in the next paper issued by the Patent and Trademark Office of this error in the August 22, 2008 office action is requested.

Applicants traverse the rejection under 35 USC 102(b) of claims 1, 3, 4, 11 and 22 over Kanemitsu et al. US 5,177,547, hereinafter '547. '547 discloses a device including printing head 9 for treating one surface of an object. The '547 device has a first input for receiving objects coming from a loader (22) for containing a plurality of such objects, a second input, in the form of manual sheet feeder 24a that is distinct from the first input, for receiving objects supplied individually by a user of the device (column 4, line 40), and an operating chain having an input for receiving objects from the first input (guiding portion 23) and from a second input (18a, 29a). The first and second inputs of the device are situated on both sides of said operating chain. The device includes a router (10) for routing to the input of said operating chain an object introduced into the device through its second input (column 4, line 34 - column 5, line 11). However, '547 does not anticipate claim 1 because it does not disclose an operating chain including a succession of operating stations, each being arranged for carrying out an action on a surface of said object.

Because claims 3, 4, 11 and 22 depend on claim 1 they are also not anticipated by '547. In addition, claim 3 further distinguishes over '547. Claim 1 requires an operating

station to be arranged for carrying out an action on a surface of an object. Thus, in '547 the operating station is for printing a sheet. '547 discloses a mechanism for controlling the rotation of ejector rollers 10 and auxiliary scanning rollers 7 according to the input used for inserting the sheet (column 4, lines 44-54). But this mechanism does not inhibit or enable the printing of the inserted sheet, i.e., does not inhibit or enable the action that the operating station is capable of carrying out. Consequently, the requirements of claim 3 are not disclosed by '547.

Applicants traverse the rejection under 35 USC 102(b) of claims 1 and 8 over lida et al. US 4,682,768, hereinafter '768. '768 discloses a bill receiving/dispensing apparatus which can house and store bills inserted by users and return a desired number of bills. The apparatus comprises a first input (entrance 6) for receiving objects coming from a loader (2) intended to contain a plurality of such objects (bills 3 previously inserted by other uses, Fig. 1, column 1, lines 60-65), a second input (slot 4), distinct from the first input, for receiving objects supplied individually by a user of the device, and an operating chain including judging device, driving roller 7, conveyer belts 18, rollers 8 to 12. The operating chain has an input including passage 5 and entrance 6 for receiving objects from the first and second inputs of the device from slot 4 or loader 2. The device disclosed by '768 thus includes a single operating chain but does not anticipate claim 1 because the single chain has only a single operating station capable of carrying out an action on a surface of an object, in the form of the judging device for determining the authenticity of the bill, column 1, lines 65-67.

Because claim 1 is not anticipated by '768, claim 8, which depends on claim 1, is improperly rejected on the '768 reference.

The rejection of claims 5, 13 and 14 under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious as a result of '768 in view of Lindelof, US Patent 7,182,330, is incorrect because Lindelof does not cure the foregoing deficiency in the rejection of claim 1, upon which claims 5, 13 and 14 depend.

The rejection of claims 6 and 7 and 16-20 over '547 in view of US Patent 4,840,367 is incorrect because "367 fails to cure the deficiency in the rejection of claim 1, upon which claims 6, 7 and 16-20 depend.

The rejection of claim 21 over '547 in view of DE 3704059 is wrong because DE 3704059 does not disclose an operating chain including a succession of operating stations for carrying out a succession of operations on a surface of an object.

Allowance is in order.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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